

May 18, 1989

LB 289A, 639

advanced.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Shall LB 289A be advanced? Those in favor say aye. Opposed no. Carried. The bill is advanced. To LB 639.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next bill, 689, the first item I have, LB 639, Mr. President, E & R amendments, first of all, Senator.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Mr. President, I move the adoption of the E & R amendments to LB 639.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Shall the E & R amendments to 639 be adopted? All in favor say aye. Opposed no. Carried. They are adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next motion I have is one to indefinitely postpone the bill. It is offered by Senator Wesely.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, I am going to review for you historically the situation with the Department of Economic Development and cite to you example after example of why I think we are opening up, again, flexibility is what we are calling for under this bill, the flexibility to a department that has ignored the will of the Legislature. I think it has flaunted its executive power too often for us to allow this sort of flexibility to be allowed under the law. I want to start back with the passage of LB 965, which is what is being amended here today. That was passed in 1986. Now 1986 is a mere three years ago, but as I counted, there are 20 of you that weren't here at that time, 20 new senators that have come onto the Legislature in 78, 79...I mean '87, '88, and '89. So there are 20 of you that aren't around and don't have the history involved, and I would like to give you a little bit of that institutional memory so you understand a little bit of why this is an important issue. Back in 1986, we followed up on a 1985 ad hoc committee on economic development which I chaired trying to look at problems that were identified with the Department of Economic Development. Now this was back at a time when we had...